

Minutes of Kent Memorial Library Commission  
May 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.  
Kent Memorial Library

The meeting was opened by Chair Austin Roberts at 7:03 pm.

**Roll Call:**

*KMLC:* Michael Alexopoulos; Michelle Kynard; Eliza Childs; Sam Coatti; Claire Kawalec; Austin Roberts; Christine Sinopoli; Despina Tartsinis; Robert White; Corbin Adzigirey;

*BOS:* Jerry Mahoney

*Library:* Julie Styles

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of Past Minutes:**

It was MOVED by Bob White and SECONDED by Claire Kawalec to approve the April 11, 2023 minutes with corrections to the following names; Gerry to Jerry, and Cynthia to Christine.

VOTED and PASSED with nine votes for and one abstention (Michael Alexopoulos).

**Communications Received:**

One piece of mail came to the director and was directed to the appropriate commission member.

**Report of the Director:**

- Report was sent to commission members in advance.
- Kim Lord has retired.
- A brief discussion on why the trees were pruned in the way they were.
- Accuracy of past data points was discussed, as well as how they can be improved in the future.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

The Communication Committee met to plan a "Meet and Greet" on May 19th from 5pm - 7pm for the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, the Library Commission, and library staff.

**Search Committee Process:**

- Brief discussion on how the process would work and why. It was determined to send it to the policy committee again for final review.
- How policies are processed was also discussed, as well as the role of board representatives.

**New Business:**

- FOIA training was discussed. Despina agreed to reach out to town attorney to arrange.
- Corbin Adzigirey clarified her point on labeling books so not to be misunderstood.
- Which lead to a brief discussion on who chooses books for the library, how they are chosen, and who actually pays for them.

**Public Comment:**

Jim I. was on the previous search committee and told the commission the process presented was similar to the process used and that it worked well.

Chris C. supported Jim I's comment and the hiring process, as it is similar to a process he has used before. He found it interesting that the three complaints received by the library represent 0.025% of the towns population. Believes that the logic applied in signs he sees around town, "Parents Know Best" should be applied to book selection in the library as well - parents, not politics, should choose what their children read.

Neil C. recommended the KMLC meetings have a zoom link so more people can attend. He thanked the library and staff for creating a safe, non-judgmental location for everyone who uses the space.

Wendy T. stated she has 30 years experience in the library and takes great pride in KML's collection. Many books were lost over the past years due to exposure during library construction and storage, but she wants to see the library collection grow. If people suggest books she is happy to order them.

Chair Austin Roberts adjourned meeting a 8:37 pm.